LYONS & FLOOD, LLP 65 West 36th Street, 7th Floor New York, New York 10018 (212) 594-2400

Attorneys for Defendant SEABOATS, INC.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

YULI CONELY, as Administratrix of the Estate of LEIBE OCIELE MEDINA, a/k/a CEILE MEDINA, Deceased and YULI CONELY, Individually, EPHRAIM RIVERA and RAPHAEL RIVERA,

ECF CASE

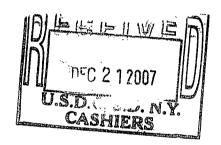
07 Civ. 11390

Plaintiffs,

- against -

SEABOATS, INC.,

Defendant.



SEABOATS, INC.'S AMENDED NOTICE OF REMOVAL

TO THE CLERK, UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT, SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to 28 USC §§1332, 1441, and 1446, defendant SEABOATS, INC. ("Seaboats"), by and through its attorneys, Lyons & Flood, LLP, hereby gives amended notice of the removal of the action styled <u>YULI CONELY</u>, as Administratrix of the Estate of LEIBE OCIELE MEDINA, et al. v. SEABOATS, INC. from the Supreme Court of the State of New York, County of Bronx, Index no. 302638/07, to the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York and states as follows:

1. On November 9, 2007, plaintiffs, Yuli Conely, as Administratrix of the Estate of Leibe Ociele Medina, a/k/a Ceile Medina, deceased and Yuli Conely, individually, Ephraim

Rivera, and Raphael Rivera commenced an action by filing a Summons and Verified Complaint in the Supreme Court of the State of New York, County of Bronx captioned <u>YULI CONELY</u>, as <u>Administratrix of the Estate of LEIBE OCIELE MEDINA</u>, a/k/a CEILE MEDINA, Deceased and YULI CONELY, Individually, EPHRAIM RIVERA and RAPHAEL RIVERA, against <u>SEABOATS</u>, INC., Index No. 302638/07. Plaintiffs assert claims for wrongful death, personal injury, and property damage arising from an alleged collision between plaintiffs' pleasure boat and defendant's tank barge.

2. On November 19, 2007, plaintiffs served a copy of the Summons and Verified Complaint on defendant. (A copy of the Summons and Verified Complaint are attached hereto as Exhibit A.)

Grounds For Removal

- 3. This Court has original jurisdiction pursuant to 28 USC § 1332, as the amount in controversy, exclusive of interest and costs, exceeds the sum of \$75,000.00, and there is complete diversity of citizenship between plaintiffs and defendant. Thus, this action may be removed to this Court by defendant pursuant to the provisions of 28 USC §§ 1441 and 1446.
- 4. Plaintiffs Ephraim Rivera and Raphael Rivera have alleged they both reside at 55 West Moshulu Parkway North, Bronx, New York. (See Exhibit A at ¶¶ 2 and 3.) Plaintiff Yuli Conely has alleged that she resides at 170 Wagon Trail North, Powell, Ohio. (See Exhibit A at ¶¶ 1.)
- 5. Defendant, Seaboats, is a Rhode Island corporation. (See Exhibit A at ¶ 4). Upon information and belief, the citizenship of the parties as alleged above existed at the time the underlying action was commenced and remain unchanged at the Notice of Removal was filed.
 - 6. It is facially apparent that the amount in controversy exceeds \$75,000.00,

exclusive of interest and costs. As noted above, this is a wrongful death, personal injury, and property damage action suit arising from an alleged collision between plaintiffs' pleasure boat and defendant's tank barge.

- 7. The Verified Complaint filed in the Supreme Court for the State of New York, County of Bronx, sets forth five causes of action. The first cause of action alleges that plaintiff decedent "was seriously injured" and "sustained conscious pain and suffering and drowned" as a result of the alleged collision and that the decedent's estate has been damaged in an amount in excess of the jurisdictional limits of all lower courts. (See Exhibit A at ¶ 26, 27, and 29). The second cause of action alleges that plaintiff Yuli Conely, the daughter of the decedent, William Pulgarin, the son of the decedent, and other decedent's distributees have sustained "pecuniary loss and damage as well as having been deprived of decedent's companionship, consortium and society and otherwise claim damages for her wrongful death" and that these plaintiffs have been damaged in an amount in excess of the jurisdictional limits of all lower courts. (See Exhibit A at ¶¶ 31 and 32).
- 8. The third cause of action in the Verified Complaint alleges that plaintiff Ephraim Rivera was "seriously injured" as a result of the alleged collision and that he has been damaged in an amount in excess of the jurisdictional limits of all lower courts. (See Exhibit A at ¶¶ 34 and 35). The fourth cause of action alleges that plaintiff Raphael Rivera sustained "property" damage" to his boat as a result of the alleged collision and that he has been damaged in an amount in excess of the jurisdictional limits of all lower courts. (See Exhibit A at ¶¶ 37 and 38). The fifth cause of action alleges that plaintiff Raphael Rivera was in the "zone of danger" and suffered "psychological trauma" as a result of the injury to his brother Ephraim Rivera and that he has been damaged in an amount in excess of the jurisdictional limits of all lower courts. (See

Exhibit A at $\P\P$ 40-42).

- 9. In evaluating a complaint that contains this kind of open-ended claim for damages, a court should appraise the amount in controversy according to a reasonable reading of the value of the rights being litigated, and should retain federal jurisdiction if it appears to a "reasonable probability" that the claim is in excess of the statutory jurisdictional amount. United Food & Commercial Workers Union v. Centermart Properties Meriden Square, Inc., 30 F.3d 298, 304-305 (2nd Cir. 1994). Given the totality and extent of the claims set forth in the Verified Complaint, there is no doubt that there is a "reasonable probability" that the claims are in excess of \$75,000.00, exclusive of interest and costs.
- 10. Moreover, on November 28, 2007, counsel for Seaboats served a Request for a Supplemental Demand on plaintiffs' counsel pursuant to section 3017 of the New York Civil Practice Law and Rules ("CPLR"), demanding that plaintiffs' counsel set forth the total damages to which plaintiffs deem themselves entitled. (See the Request for Supplemental Demand attached hereto as Exhibit B).
- In response, on December 19, 2007, defendant received Plaintiffs' Response to 11. Defendant's Request for Supplemental Demand listing the break down of their claims as follows:
 - 1. First cause of action......\$3,000,000.00
 - 2. Second cause of action......\$6,000,000.00
 - 3. Third cause of action......\$,3,000,000.00
 - 4. Fourth cause of action......\$50,000.00
 - 5. Fifth cause of action......\$2,500,000.00

(See the Plaintiff's Supplemental Demand attached hereto as Exhibit C).

Thus, the total amount of damages sought is \$14,550,000.00 under these claims, 12.

which clearly exceeds the jurisdictional limit of \$75,000.00, exclusive of interest and costs.

Pre-Requisites for Removal Satisfied

- 13. This Notice of Removal is timely filed in accordance with 28 USC § 1446(b) in that it is filed within thirty (30) days after the date Seaboats was served with the Verified Complaint. This case was filed less than 1 year ago pursuant to 28 USC § 1446(b).
- 14. Venue is proper in this District under 28 USC § 1446(a) because this District includes Bronx County, the county in which the state court action is pending.
- 15. As required by § 1446(d), a true and correct copy of this Notice of Removal is being served on plaintiffs and on the Clerk of the Supreme Court of the State of New York. County of Bronx.
- 16. Defendant does not waive any defenses it may have to this action and no statements made herein shall be construed to concede any defenses to this action.

WHEREFORE, defendant prays that this action be removed from the Supreme Court of the State of New York, County of Bronx, to the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York.

Dated: December 20, 2007

LYONS & FLOOD, LLP Attorneys for Defendant SEABOATS, INC.

By:

Kirk M. Lyons (KL-1568) 65 West 36th Street, 7th Floor New York, New York 10018

(212) 594-2400

EXHIBIT A

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF BRONK

YULI CONELY, as Administratrix of the Estate of LEIBE OCIELE MEDINA, a/k/a CEILE MEDINA, Deceased and YULI CONELY, Individually, EPHRAIM RIVERA and RAPHAEL RIVERA.

Plaintiffs.

-against-

SEABOATS, INC.,

Defendants.

Index No. 302638/07

Plaintiffs designate Bronx -County as the place of trial

The basis of the venue is Plaintiffs' Residence

Summons

Plaintiffs Ephraim Rivera and Raphael Rivera reside at 55 West Mosholu Pkwy North, Bronx, New York

To the above name Defendant

You are hereby summoned to answer the complaint in this action and to serve a copy of your answer, or, if the complaint is not served with this summons, to serve a notice of appearance, on the Plaintiff's Attorney(s) within 30 days after the service of this summons. exclusive of the day of service (or within 30 days after the service is complete if this summons is not personally delivered to you within the State of New York); and in case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded herein.

Dated: November 7, 2007 Defendant's address:

Sea Boats, Inc.

9 Church Cove Road

Bristol, RI 02809-5101

FRANK V. FLORIANI

Ättorneys for Plaintiff

Office and Post Office Address

FRANK V. FLORIANI

SULLIYAN PAPAIN BLOCK

McGRATH & CANNAYO P.C

120 Broadway

New York, New York 1027.

A Tible Coll rugger

(212) 732-9000

Upon your failure to appear, judgment will be taken against you by default for the sum of \$ with interest from 20 and the costs of this action.

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
COUNTY OF BRONX

YULI CONELY, as Administratrix of the Estate of LEIBE OCIELE MEDINA, a/k/a OCEILE MEDINA, Deceased and YULI CONELY, Individually, EPHRAIM RIVERA and RAPHAEL RIVERA

Index No.: 300/38-07

Plaintiffs,

-against-

VERIFIED COMPLAINT

SEABOATS, INC.,

Defendant.

Plaintiffs, by their attorneys, SULLIVAN PAPAIN BLOCK McGRATH & CANNAVO P.C., complaining of the defendants, allege, upon information and belief, as follows:

- 1. Yuli Conely, residing at 170 Wagon Trail North, Powell, Ohio was appointed Administratrix of the estate of Leibe Ociele Medina, also known as Oceile Medina ("decedent"), pursuant to a decree of the Surrogate's Court, Bronx County dated October 23, 2007.
- 2. That on June 10, 2007 and at present Ephraim Rivera resides at 55 West Mosholu Parkway North, Bronx, New York.
- 3. That on June 10, 2007 and at present Raphael Rivera resides at 55 West Mosholu Parkway North, Bronx, New York.
- 4. That at all times hereinafter mentioned SEABOATS, INC.
 was a foreign corporation organized and existing pursuant to

RECEIVED

laws of the state of Rhode Island and was duly authorized to conduct business in the state of New York.

- 5. On June 10, 2007, defendant, SEABOATS, INC. owned a certain tug boat bearing the name "Donald C." ("Donald C.").
- 6. On June 10, 2007, defendant, SEABOATS, INC., owned a certain tank barge bearing the name "Patriot" ("Patriot").
- 7. On June 10, 2007, the Patriot, owned by SEABOATS, INC., was being pushed and/or was otherwise underway due to the assistance of the $Donald\ C$.
- 8. On June 10, 2007, the captain of the *Donald C*. was Michael Joseph Mezger, and as such he was in charge of the crew of the *Donald C*. and was responsible for the operation of both the *Donald C*. and the *Patriot*.
- 9. On June 10, 2007, the *Donald C*. was being operated by its captain, Michael Joseph Mezger.
- 10. On June 10, 2007, Michael Joseph Mezger was at the helm of the $Donald\ C.$
- 11. On June 10, 2007, Michael Joseph Mezger was an employee of SEABOATS, INC..
- 12. On June 10, 2007, Michael Joseph Mezger was operating the Donald C. in the course of his employment for SEABOATS,

- 13. On June 10, 2007, the Donald C. was pushing the Patriot in the Long Island Sound in an area northeast of Sands Point, New York.
- 14. On June 10, 2007, plaintiff Raphael Rivera owned a certain pleasure craft bearing registration number NY 5148 C ("the Rivera boat").
- 15. On June 10, 2007, Raphael Rivera was on board the Rivera boat along with decedent and Ephraim Rivera at the aforementioned location.
- 16. On June 10, 2007, the Donald C. pushed the Patriot into the Rivera boat.
- 17. On June 10, 2007, the Donald C. failed to post a look out on the Patriot.
- 18. On June 10, 2007, the Donald C. failed to signal and/or otherwise warn of its approach to the Rivera boat.
- 19. On June 10, 2007, at the aforementioned location the Rivera boat had the right of way.
- 20. On June 10, 2007, it was the obligation of the Donald C. and the Patriot to yield the right away to the Rivera boat.
- 21. As a result of the aforementioned collision between the Donald C. and the Patriot with the Rivera boat, decedent, Raphael Rivera and Ephraim Rivera were thrown into the water.
- 22. The aforementioned occurred as a result of the negligence, carelessness and recklessness of the defendant in

the ownership, operation, maintenance, management and control of the Donald C. and the Patriot.

- 23. The limitations on liability set forth in CPLR §1601 do not apply.
- 24. The limitations on liability set forth in CPLR \$1601 do not apply by reason of one or more exceptions set forth in CPLR \$1602.

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

- 25. Plaintiff Yuli Conely as the administratrix of decedent's estate repeats and realleges paragraphs "1"-"24" as if fully set forth at length herein.
- 26. As a result of the foregoing decedent was seriously injured.
- 27. As a result of the foregoing decedent sustained conscious pain and suffering and drowned.
- 28. As a result of the aforementioned decedent's estate has been damaged in an amount in excess of the jurisdictional limits f all lower courts in which this action could otherwise have been brought.

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

29. Plaintiff Yuli Conely as the administratrix of the decedent's estate repeats and realleges each and every allegation set forth in paragraphs "1" through "28" as if fully set forth at length herein.

- 30. By reason of the aforementioned, Liebe Ociele Medina, died on June 15^{th} , 2007.
- 31. As a result of the wrongful death of decedent, plaintiff, Yuli Conely, daughter of decedent, and William Pulgarin, son of decedent, and other of the decedent's distributees have sustained pecuniary loss and damage as well as having been deprived of decedent's companionship, consortium and society and otherwise claim damages for her wrongful death.
- 32. By reason of the foregoing, plaintiff, Yuli Conely, as Administratrix of the Estate of Leibe Ociele Medina on behalf of decedent's distributees claims damages for her wrongful death in an amount in excess of the jurisdictional limits of all lower courts in which this action could otherwise have been brought.

THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION

- 33. Plaintiff Ephraim Rivera repeats and realleges each and every allegation set forth in paragraphs "1" through "24" as if fully set forth at length herein.
- 34. As a result of the aforementioned occurrence plaintiff Ephraim Rivera was seriously injured.
- 35. By reason of the foregoing Ephraim Rivera was damaged in an amount in excess of the jurisdictional limits of all lower courts in which this action could otherwise have been brought.

FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION

- 36. Plaintiff Raphael Rivera repeats and realleges each and every allegation set forth in paragraphs "1" through "24" as if fully set forth at length herein.
- 37. By reason of the aforementioned plaintiff Raphael Rivera sustained property damage to the Rivera boat.
- 38. By reason of the foregoing, plaintiff, Rafael Rivera has been damaged in an amount in excess of the jurisdictional limits of all lower courts in which this action could otherwise have been brought.

FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION

- 39. Plaintiff Raphael Rivera repeats and realleges each and every allegation set forth in paragraphs "1" through "35" as if fully set forth at length herein.
- 40. As a result of the aforementioned occurrence plaintiff Raphael Rivera was present when his brother Ephraim Rivera was injured.
- 41. At the aforementioned time and place plaintiff Raphael Rivera was in the zone of danger and sustained psychological trauma.
- 42. By reason of the foregoing, plaintiff, Rafael Rivera has been damaged in an amount in excess of the jurisdictional limits of all lower courts in which this action could otherwise have been brought.

WHEREFORE, plaintiffs Yuli Conely, as Administratrix of the Estate of Leibe Ociele Medina, Ephraim Rivera and Rafael Rivera demand judgment on each of the first, second, third, fourth and fifth causes of action in an amount in excess of the jurisdictional limits of all lower courts in which this action could otherwise have been brought together with interest, costs and the disbursements of this action.

Yours, etc.

SULLIVAN PAPAIN BLOCK MCGRATH & CANNAVO P.C.

By:

FRANK V. FLORIANI
Attorneys for Plaintiffs
120 Broadway - 18th Floor
New York, New York 10271
(212) 732-9000

VERIFICATION

STATE OF NEW YORK) \$8.: COUNTY OF NEW YORK

Frank V. Floriani, being duly sworn, deposes and says:

I am a member of SULLIVAN PAPAIN BLOCK McGRATH & CANNAVO P.C., attorneys for the plaintiffs herein.

I have read the foregoing COMPLAINT and know the contents thereof, and upon information and belief, deponent believes the matters alleged therein to be true.

The source of deponent's information and the grounds of his belief are communications, papers, reports and investigations contained in the file.

Frank V

Sworn to before me this 7th day of November, 2007

Notary Public

MILLICET Y. SANCHEZ Notary Public, State of New York No. 01SA6139553 Qualified in New York County Commission Expires Jan. 9, 2010

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Index No.

Year 20

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF BRONX

YULI CONELY, as Administratrix of the Estate of LEIBE OCIELE MEDINA, a/k/a CEILE MEDINA, Deceased and YULI CONELY, Individually, EPHRAIM RIVERA and RAPHAEL RIVERA Plaintiffs,

-against-SEABOATS, INC.,

Defendants.

SUMMONS AND COMPLAINT

SULLIVAN PAPAIN BLOCK MCGRATH & CANNAVO P.C. Attorneys for Plaintiff (s)

120 BROADWAY NEW YORK, NEW YORK 1027! (212) 732-9000

Pursuant to 22 NYCRR 130-1.1-a, the undersigned, an attorney admitted to practice in the courts of New York State, certifies that, upon information and belief and reasonable inquiry, (1) the contentions contained in the annexed

claims for personal injury or wrongful d Dated:		Signature				
		Print Signer's Na	me			
Service of	a copy of the within			is	hereby admitted	
Dated:	•					
		Attor	ney(s):for			
PLEASE	TAKE NOTICE					
NOTICE OF ENTRY		within is a (certified) true copy of a in the office of the clerk of the within-named Court on			20	
NOTICE OF SETTLEMENT	Hon.	hich the within is a true copy will be presented for settlement to the , one of the judges of the within-named Court,				
	on	20	, at	М.		

To:

Attorneys for

120 BROADWAY NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10271

SULLIVAN PAPAIN BLOCK MCGRATH & CANNAVO P.C.

EXHIBIT B

SUPREME COURT OF	THE	STATE	OF	NEW	YOR	K
COUNTY OF BRONX						

YULI CONELY, as Administratrix of the Estate of LEIBE OCIELE MEDINA, a/k/a CEILE MEDINA, Deceased and YULI CONELY, Individually, EPHRAIM RIVERA and RAPHAEL RIVERA,

Index No. 302638/07

Plaintiffs,

- against -

REQUEST FOR SUPPLEMENTAL DEMAND

SEABOATS, INC.,

Defendant.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that defendant SEABOATS, INC., pursuant to § 3107 of the New York Civil Practice Law and Rules, hereby demands that plaintiffs serve upon defendant within fifteen (15) days hereof, a Supplemental Demand setting forth the total damages to which plaintiffs deem themselves entitled.

Dated: November 26, 2007

LYONS & FLOOD, LLP Attorneys for Defendant SEABOATS, INC.

By:

Kirk M. Lyons 65 West 36th Street, 7th Floor New York, New York 10018 (212) 594-2400

AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE BY MAIL

STATE OF NEW YORK) ss.:
COUNTY OF NEW YORK)

Erika Tax, being duly sworn, deposes and says:

Deponent is not a party to the action, is over 18 years of age, and resides in Queens, New York.

That on November 26, 2007, deponent served the within REQUEST FOR SUPPLEMENTAL DEMAND upon:

To: Frank V. Floriani, Esq.

SULLIVAN PAPAIN BLOCK MCGRATH & CANNAVO P.C.

Attorney for Plaintiffs

120 Broadway

New York, NY 10271

(212) 732-9000

the attorneys for the respective parties in this action, at the above addresses designated by said attorneys for that purpose, by hand delivery and by depositing true copies of same in post-paid, properly addressed wrappers in an official depository under the exclusive care and custody of the United States Postal Service within the State of New York.

ERÍKA TAX

Sworn to before me this

26th day of November, 2007

Notary Public

JON WERNER
NOTARY PUBLIC
02WE6149122
STATE OF NEW YORK
COMMISSION EXPIRES

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE COUNTY OF BRONX		
YULI CONELY, as Administratrix of the OCIELE MEDINA, a/k/a CEILE MEDI YULI CONELY, Individually, EPHRAI RAPHAEL RIVERA,	Index No.: 302638/07	
- against -		
SEABOATS, INC.		
	Defendant.	
DEOLIEST FOD	SUPPLEMENTAL DEM	AND

Kirk M. Lyons LYONS & FLOOD, LLP Attorney for Defendant SEABOATS, INC. 65 West 36th Street, 7th Floor New York, NY 10018

EXHIBIT C

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF BRONX

YULI CONELY, as Administratrix of the Estate of LEIBE OCIELE MEDINA, a/k/a CEILE MEDINA, Deceased and Index No. 302638/07 YULI CONELY, Individually, EPHRAIM RIVERA and RAPHAEL RIVERA,

Plaintiffs,

-against-

PLAINTIFF'S RESPONSE TO DEFENDANT'S "REQUEST FOR SUPPLEMENTAL DEMAND"

SEABOATS, INC.,

Defendants.

Plaintiffs YULI CONELY, as Administratrix of the Estate of LEIBE OCIELE MEDINA, a/k/a CEILE MEDINA, Deceased, EPHRAIM RIVERA and RAPHAEL RIVERA, through their attorneys, SULLIVAN PAPAIN BLOCK McGRATH & CANNAVO P.C., set forth the following in response to defendants' "REQUEST FOR SUPPLEMENTAL DEMAND" dated November 26, 2007:

Plaintiffs claim damages on their causes of action set forth in the complaint as follows:

- 1. First cause of action\$3,000,000.00.
- 3. Third cause of action\$3,000,000.00.
- 4. Fourth cause of action\$50,000.00
- 5. Fifth cause of action\$2,500,000.00



Dated: New York, New York December 17, 2007

Yours, etc.,

SULLIVAN PAPAIN BLOCK MoGRATH & CANNAVO P.C.

Ву:__

FRANK V. FLORIANI

Attorneys for Plaintiffs 120 Broadway

New York, New York 10271

(212) 732-9000

TO:

Lyons & Flood, LLP 65 West 36th Street, 7th Floor New York, NY 10018

Attn: Kirk M. Lyons

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

Filed 02/21

Erika Tax declares and states that:

I am not a party to these actions, am over 18 years of age and reside in Queens, New York. I am an employee with Lyons & Flood, LLP, attorneys for defendant SEABOATS, INC., with offices at 65 West 36th Street, 7th Floor, New York, New York 10018.

On December 21, 2007, I served true copies of the Amended Notice of Removal upon:

Frank V. Floriani, Esq.
SULLIVAN PAPAIN BLOCK MCGRATH & CANNAVO P.C.
Attorney for Plaintiffs
120 Broadway
New York, NY 10271
(212) 732-9000

by U.S. Mail, first-class postage pre-paid, addressed to the last known address of the addressees as indicated above.

Executed on: December 21, 2007

Erika Tax